



May 6, 2003

TO: Annette Rose, President
Susan Adams
Hal Brown
Cynthia Murray

FROM: Steve Kinsey

Dear Board members,

I am providing you with a copy of the draft resolution supporting our Constitutional rights and liberties threatened by the U.S. Patriot Act and other federal legislation and executive orders and rulings that Supervisor Adams and I are bringing forward on Tuesday, May 6, 2003. While we must focus our attention on the important matters under the authority of local government, I believe we cannot do so without attending to the fundamental principles which underpin our nation as well.

I encourage us to view this discussion and the follow up actions we may direct to be taken as an act of civic duty rather than a political statement about our current federal executive and legislative leadership. As a nation we have faced similar periods in our history where our government sought to trade away basic rights in return for a greater sense of security during threatening times. In 1803, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall wrote:

Certainly all of those who have framed written constitutions contemplate them as forming the fundamental and paramount law of the nation and, consequently, the theory of every such government must be that an act of legislation, repugnant to the constitution, is void.

More recently, another Supreme Court Justice, Louis Brandeis, stated:

Fear of serious injury cannot alone justify suppression of free speech and assembly...It is the function of free speech to free men from the bondage of irrational fears.

I encourage us to add our voice and our actions to the growing ranks of patriotic Americans who have committed themselves to reject the erosion of our Constitution that is embodied in the US Patriot Act and related executive and legislative actions.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsey